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Message Text

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21
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: LAFTA
SUBJECT: CHILE RATIFIES PROTOCOL ESTABLISHING COUNCIL OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS AS HIGHEST LAFTA ORGANISM

REF: MVD A-105, AUGUST 5, 1975

1. AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF LAFTA'S PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 20, CHILE'S REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED HIS COUNTRY HAD THAT DAY RATIFIED THE 1966 PROTOCOL ESTABLISHING THE "COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS" AS LAFTA'S HIGHEST BODY. CHILE WAS THE LAST OF LAFTA'S ELEVEN MEMBERS TO RATIFY. THIS PROTOCOL REQUIRED UNANIMITY AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE 30 DAYS AFTER DEPOSIT OF RATIFICATION, WHICH EXPECTED SHORTLY.
2. CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE MADE PUBLIC HERE STATES THAT GOC BELIEVES PRESENT MOMENT, WHILE COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY TO REVITALIZE LAFTA, TO BE OPPORTUNE TO BRING COUNCIL INTO EXISTENCE AND GIVE INTEGRATION PROCESS ADEQUATE POLITICAL SUPPORT.
3. COMMENT: RATIFICATION BY CHILE AT THIS TIME CAME AS A COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED, BUT WELCOME, SURPRISE TO LAFTA, WHICH PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN CONTINUING COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS (REFAIR) IN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE FUTURE DIRECTION OF LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. IN FACT, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE MET THREE TIMES, MOST
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RECENTLY IN 1967, AS THE SUPREME LAFTA ORGANISM. THIS STEP
WHICH INSTITUTIONALIZES AN AD HOC PROCEDURE ALSO REQUIRES THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET ONCE A YEAR.
4. CHILE'S ACTION, COMING AT THIS TIME AND AS IT DID, WILL BE TAKEN
AS A MEASURE OF SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE LAFTA.
HOWEVER, AS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR SOME TIME, THE BASIC DECISIONS
TO REINVIGORATE THE INTEGRATION PROCESS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE
GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AT A LEVEL HIGHER THAN THE LAFTA PERMANENT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING
PARTIES. THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT PROVIDE THE FORUM,
BUT THE DIFFICULTIES THAT SLOWED LAFTA GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS
REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.
5. WE WOULD SPECULATE GOC AWARE OF POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT
ITS DECISION, AND THIS MAY REFLECT RELATION BETWEEN SUPPORT FOR LAFTA
AS AN ORGANIZATION AND RETICENCE ALL SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES TO JOIN
THE SELA BAND WAGON, AS WELL AS CHILEAN DESIRE TO EMPHASIZE
EXISTING REGIONAL TIES.
6. GDS.
SIRACUSA

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